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Spatial Distribution Pattern of The Fruit Fly, <i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i> complex (Diptera: Tephritidae) in Mango Orchard <i>A. Soemargono, Muryati, Ahsol Hasyim and Idzu Istianto</i>	207
Comparison of Five Legumes as Host of <i>Tetranychus</i> sp. (Acari: Tetranychidae) Mass Rearing <i>Retno Dyah Puspitarini, Nurul Qomariyah and Aminudin Afandhi</i>	214
Quality Improvement of Mangosteen for Export Through Drip Irrigation System and Yellow Fluorescent Sticky Trap Installation <i>Affandi, Liza Octriana, Dewi Fatma and Titin Permama</i>	218
Study of Expression of Sugarcane Sucrose Transporter cDNA in Yeast <i>Slameto, Bambang Sugiharto, Nur Basuki and Liliek Sulistyowati</i>	227
Pathogenicity, Development and Reproduction of The Entomopathogenic Nematode <i>Steinemema</i> sp., in Mealworm <i>Tenebrio molitor</i> <i>Yuliantoro Baliadi, Ika Rochdjatun Sastrahidayat, Syamsuddin Djauhari and Bambang Tri Rahardjo</i>	233
Changes of Physical Properties of Sandy Soil and Growth of Physic Nut (<i>Jatropha Curcas</i> L.) Due to Addition of Clay and Organic Matter <i>Djajadi, Bambang Heliyanto and Nurul Hidayah</i>	245
Adaptability of Mutant Genotypes of Artemisinin (<i>Artemisia annua</i> L.) as Result of Gamma Irradiation in Three Locations with Different Altitude <i>Muhamad Syukur, Endang Gati Lestari, Puji Nugroho, Zulfan Wahyuningtyah, Rosi Yunita, Syarifah Lis Aisyah and Rohim Firdaus</i>	251
Physic Nut Thrips Diversity <i>Nur Asbani and Dewi Sartiani</i>	257
Biosulfo Fertilizer Development for Corn Using Effect of Phosphate Rock Content and Inoculum Ratio of Biosulfo on P and C Efficiency in Acid and Alkaline Soils <i>Sudadi, Sumarno and Jaka Widada</i>	265
A Study of Using QUEFTS Model for Soil Fertility Status and Fertilizer Recommendation in Maize on The Basis of Farmer Fields <i>Yagus Wijayanto and Edy Prastyanto</i>	273
Effects of Nitrification Inhibitors on Mineral Nitrogen Dynamics in Agriculture Soils <i>Ferisman Tindaon, Gero Benckiser and Johannes Carl Gottlieb Ottow</i>	279
Potential of Phosphorus Pollution in The Poll of The Northern Gaza Strip, Palestine <i>Mazen Hamada, Adnan Aish and Mai Shabwan</i>	291

BIOSULFO FERTILIZER DEVELOPMENT FOR HORTICULTURE CROPS II. THE EFFECT OF PHOSPHATE ROCK CONTENT AND INOCULUM RATIO OF BIOSULFO ON P AND S UPTAKE AND YIELD OF RED ONION IN ACID AND ALKALINE SOILS

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ABSTRACT

Research aimed to study the influence of phosphate rock-sulfur (PRS) content and inoculum ratios of biosulfo on P and S uptake and red onion yield on acid (Alfisol) and alkaline (Vertisol) soils. Two factors evaluated were PRS content (0%, 60%, 80%) and inoculums of *A.niger* / *P.nalgiovensis* ratio of biosulfo (0:0, 1:1 and 3:1). As much of 12 kg of soil (ϕ 2 mm) mixed thoroughly with biosulfo, basic fertilizer and manure, put into polybag then watering at field capacity moisture content. One bulb of red onion was planted to each polybag and incubated in the green house. The experiments arranged in completely randomized design with three replications. Variables observed included P and S uptake, and onion yield. Data analyzed with F test at 5% level of significant followed with DMRT if any significant influences. The result shows that the increases of PRS content as well as *A. niger* ratio of biosulfo tend to increase P and S uptake, especially on acid Alfisol. Highest P and S uptake and onion yield were achieved with treatment combinations of $P_{80}I_{11}$, $P_{80}I_{31}$, and $P_{80}I_{11}$ for Alfisol, and $P_{80}I_{11}$, $P_{60}I_{11}$ and $P_{60}I_{11}$ for Vertisol respectively.

Keywords: phosphate, rock content, inoculums ratio, P and S uptake, onion yield

INTRODUCTION

Efforts to increase the solubility of phosphate (P) from phosphate rock (PR) has been done by exploiting the role of phosphate solubilizer microbes, either of bacteria (Stevenson, 1986; Salih *et al.* 1989; Tisdale *et al.* 1990; Bar-Yosef *et al.*

1999; Ariyanti, 2003) or fungi (Salih *et al.*, 1989; Singal, 1994; Goenadi *et al.*, 2000; Fenice *et al.*, 2000; Reddy *et al.*, 2002; Sastro, 2006). Microbes dissolve the PR-P by their acids produced, both organic (Stevenson, 1986; Bar-Yousef *et al.*, 1999; Fenice *et al.*, 2000; Gadagi and Sa, 2002; Sastro, 2006), as well as inorganic acids (Coyne, 1999). Partially acidulated with mineral or organic acid is an alternative way to increase the availability of P from phosphate rock to meet equal effectiveness with soluble phosphate fertilizers such as single super phosphate (SSP) or triple super phosphate (TSP) (Chien and Hammond, 1989; Battono *et al.*, 1990; Menon *et al.*, 1991; Kpombrekou and Tabatabai, 2003). Partially acidulated can also be done with sulfuric acid produced by sulfur oxidizing microbes. Farmers in Australia have long been used Biosuper fertilizer made by mixing compost, phosphate rock and sulfur in order to increase the amount of available P (Tisdale *et al.*, 1990). The research of Supriyani (2006) showed the addition of sulfuric acid increased P dissolution of phosphate rock by the fungus of *A.niger* in Pikovskaya liquid medium. This opens up opportunities for joint use of elemental sulfur and its oxidizer to improve the dissolution of phosphate rock-P by phosphate solubilizer fungus. Phosphate solubilizer fungus *A. niger* and sulfur oxidizer fungus *P. nalgiovensis* individually have been known to dissolve the PR-P, but combining them into a formula of fertilizer such biosulfo to improve the dissolution of the PR-P is still not well known. Previous research has shown that P-solubilizer fungus *A. niger* and sulfur-oxidizer fungus *P. nalgiovensis* capable of dissolving PR-P and oxidize elemental sulfur of biosulfo fertilizer to available phosphate and sulfate significantly